World Campaign for Human Rights

Human Rights Newsletter

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First Asia-Pacific Human Rights Workshop

Corazon Aquino, President of the Republic of the Philippines, addressing participants at the opening session of the human rights workshop. To the right are: Mary Concepcion Bautista, Chairman, Philippine Commission on Human Rights, Marcelo Fernan, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines, Raul Manglapus, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, Jan Martenson, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, Narcisa Escaler, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland, Purificacion Quisumbing, Assistant Secretary, Office of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines and Chairman of the forty-sixth session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.*

The first Asia-Pacific human rights workshop was held in Manila, the Philippines, from 7 to 11 May 1990. It was organized by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights in cooperation with the Government. Senior government officials from 23 countries* in the Asia-Pacific region as well as human rights experts and representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, attended.

A welcome address was given by Raul Manglapus, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and the keynote statement was made by Corazon Aquino, President of the Philippines. The Centre for Human Rights was represented by its Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, who also delivered an introductory statement.

In her address, President Aquino outlined the moves undertaken by her administration to demonstrate to the international community Philippine commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights. To date, the Philippines has signed a total of 29 international instruments on human rights. To strengthen national human rights institutions, she said, her country has availed itself of the advisory service and technical assistance programmes of the Centre for Human Rights. She stated that one of the reasons the Philippines had decided to host this workshop was to share with those of the Asia and Pacific region Philippine experiences to protect and promote human rights in order to create a truly universal culture of human rights.

Working sessions and follow-up discussions focussed on: standard-setting in the field of human rights; the role and machinery of the United Nations in the field of human rights; regional institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms; national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms; and awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms – the role of public opinion.

CHILD RIGHTS CEREMONY

On the final day, a ceremony was held to discuss effective methods for disseminating information about the rights of the child as contained in the new international Convention. Rep-

* *Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, China, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Western Samoa.*

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resentatives from the Philippine Government, including President Aquino, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and national human rights-oriented groups, participated in the meeting.

For further information, contact: External Relations Section, Advisory Services, Technical Assistance and Information Branch, Centre for Human Rights.

Human Rights Curriculum for Social Work Schools

As of 1989, the Centre for Human Rights and the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) have been collaborating closely on the preparation of a human rights curriculum for schools of social work, worldwide. Although much of the existing course content of social work education and training is already implicitly concerned with human rights issues, it was felt that there was a need to develop a greater awareness among social work students of the goals and structures of international bodies active in the field of human rights.

PROGRAMME CONCEPT

One or two introductory lectures are being proposed which would include:

- General introduction based on the importance of respecting human rights in social work;
- History of the United Nations in the field of human rights; and
- Introduction to the international and regional human rights instruments and their application to specific fields of social work.

It is hoped that the course will be incorporated into schools of social work before the end of the year.

For further information, contact: Ms. E. Apostol, Secretary-General, IFSW, 33 rue de l'Athenée, 1206 Geneva, Switzerland, or External Relations Section, Advisory Services, Technical Assistance and Information Branch, Centre for Human Rights.

Teaching Human Rights

In recent years, a number of academic institutions in different countries have begun to offer courses specifically related to human rights. As part of the United Nations World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights, the Centre for Human Rights gives its full support and encouragement to such institutions in order to enhance the teaching and training of human rights at various levels.

"Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment" (Article 23, Universal Declaration of Human Rights). A social worker in Barcelona (Spain) provides guidance and assistance during a training programme for young persons in need of developing special skills for eventual employment. (WCC photo: Peter Williams)

One such institution in the forefront is the University of Padova in Italy. In 1982, a post-graduate network of training and research on human rights and the rights of peoples was established. To this day, it remains unique within the Italian university system.

The interdisciplinary three-year programme is organized in four sections: a centre for training and research on human rights and the rights of peoples; an annual post-graduate course in human rights and the rights of peoples; a triennial post-graduate school in law and politics of human rights; and a doctoral course in international relations, international politics and institutions for human rights.

The school's objective is to educate persons such as civil servants assigned to interministerial committees for human rights, ombudsmen, public defenders of children, international civil servants, researchers and teachers, and officers of non-governmental organizations, so that they in turn can promote and defend human rights at both national and international levels.

The Centre hopes that the Padova *model* may serve as an example to other institutions, adapting its interdisciplinary approach of teaching about human rights and fundamental freedoms to individual cultures worldwide.

For further information, contact: Prof. Antonio Papisca, Centro di studi e di formazione sui diritti dell'uomo e dei popoli, University of Padova, Via del Santo 28–35123 Padova, Italy.

Academic Freedom Information Kit

An information kit aimed at promoting the right to academic freedom has been prepared by the World University Service (WUS), a non-governmental organization focusing on education and training for refugees, returnees and victims of discrimination, human rights, women, community development and academic cooperation.

The kit contains a 19-point *Lima Declaration on Academic Freedom and Autonomy of Institutions of Higher*

Education, approved by the WUS International General Assembly which met in Lima, Peru from 6 to 10 September 1988, the year of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is intended as a basis for discussion by the international community in order to move in the direction of proclaiming an international declaration on this subject.

Also included in the packet are related statements by Manfred Novak, Director of the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights and Danilo Türk, Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, a copy of the newly-launched *WUS and Human Rights* newsletter, and WUS' statement to the forty-fifth session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

For copies of the kit and further information, contact: Laksiri Fernando, Human Rights Programme, World University Service, 5 chemin des Iris, 1216 Geneva (Cointrin), Switzerland.

Human Rights Summer Course

The Eleventh Annual Summer Course on Human Rights, organized by the Canadian Human Rights Foundation, will take place from 8 to 21 July 1990, at the University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, Canada. The two-week programme is designed to offer an intensive introduction to domestic and international human rights issues, laws and institutions.

Some of the objectives will be to provide:

- Analyses by leading authorities of substantive Canadian, American and international human rights law;
- Critical examination of provincial, national and international human rights institutions; and
- Inquiries into specific issues such as prevention of discrimination and the protection of minorities.

Participation is open to all persons interested in human rights, including university students, professors, lawyers, government officials, members of human rights commissions, unions, representatives of civil liberties and minority organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil servants and journalists.

In 1989, representatives from some 20 different countries attended.

Over the past twenty years, the Foundation has focused on the education of public opinion with a view to promoting respect for human rights through its national programmes of research, education, discussion and publication. Each year it organizes regional and national conferences on vital aspects of human rights in different cities across Canada.

For further information, contact: Marnina Gonick, Assistant Director, Canadian Human Rights Foundation, 3465 chemin de la Côte-des-Neiges, B.301, Montreal, Quebec H3H1T7, Canada.

AIDS Education and Human Rights

International efforts aimed at promoting a better understanding of the human rights dimension of people infected with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), continue.

Since July 1989, the Centre for Human Rights has been cooperating closely with the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Programme on AIDS (see the *Human Rights Newsletter*, Vol. 2, No. 3). Similarly, WHO is collaborating with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to develop innovative approaches for AIDS education with a human rights dimension in primary and secondary schools worldwide.

The aim is to mobilize communities and young people to adopt responsible attitudes vis-à-vis their social, emotional and sexual life so as to promote their health, security, self-esteem and mutual respect.

In addition to organizing international workshops and symposiums on the subject, pilot projects are being implemented in Ethiopia, Fiji, Jamaica, Mauritius, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Thailand and Venezuela. These projects are intended to provide lessons and experience on how to develop school AIDS education projects all over the world. To this end, a comparative study will be conducted of evaluations done on pilot projects.

During 1990-1991, AIDS education materials will be published and exhibitions of posters and videos on AIDS education, prepared at

Children in Tanzania showing a poster from a contest in the fight against AIDS (Photo: F. Deniaud)

UNESCO and WHO headquarters, will be shown in the regional offices.

For further information, contact: Section of Education for the Quality of Life, UNESCO, 7 place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris, France.

Human Rights and AIDS Conference

A regional conference was organized in Brazzaville, Congo, from 12 to 16 March 1990 by the World Health Organization (WHO) on human rights and people infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and people with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). The primary objectives of the conference were to: exchange experiences in the implementation of the strategy for AIDS prevention and control in the African region, particularly with regard to human rights; develop a regional framework for avoidance of discrimination relating to HIV/AIDS; identify regional needs for further information and guidance in this field; and stimulate the elaboration of national legislation in the area of public health.

Participants included representatives from the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Rwanda, Zaire, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Mozambique. Representatives from the Centre for Human Rights and WHO's National AIDS Committees of Congo and Zaire also participated.

The Conference covered a wide range of issues, from the advisability of using penal law in the prevention of HIV transmission, to conditions for HIV testing (consent, confidentiality and counselling) and to criteria for experimental use of vaccines and treatments. In particular, the Conference discussed in detail HIV/AIDS-related discrimination in the area of travel, study abroad and migration, employment and insurance. The role of information about AIDS vis-à-vis the mass media in helping to avoid discrimination was also covered.

Among the conclusions and recommendations of the Conference were the following:

- The Conference affirms that the fight against AIDS should never be used as a pretext to undermine the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

- States should reinforce the existing international treaties for the protection of human rights and fundamental liberties of HIV-infected persons or conclude new ones within the framework of the organizations for multilateral, regional and subregional cooperation;

- Education aimed at promoting responsible behaviour is much more effective in AIDS prevention and control than a repressive approach; and

- Work is a fundamental human right and therefore all forms of discrimination ought to be eliminated.

Participants also urged national, regional and international bodies involved in AIDS prevention and control to ascertain that all information on AIDS is scientifically verified and contributes to the avoidance of discrimination.

For further information, contact: Katarina Tomasevski, Global Programme on AIDS, World Health Organization, 20, avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

World Conference on Education

"States Parties recognize the right of the child to education, ...(and) shall promote and encourage international cooperation in matters relating to education... ". (Article 28, Convention on the Rights of the Child).

Some 1,500 persons attended a World Conference on Education for All in Jomtien, Thailand from 5 to 9 March 1990. The Conference was convened jointly by the executive heads of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Bank. It was co-sponsored by an additional 18 Governments and organizations and was hosted by the Government of Thailand.

A wide range of experts and representatives from Governments, development agencies and private and non-governmental organizations discussed major aspects of *Education for All* in 48 roundtables and a plenary commission, which ended in the adoption of two major documents– the *World Declaration on Education for All* and the *Framework for Action to Meet Basic Learning Needs.*

FOLLOW-UP

The Framework for Action to Meet Basic Learning Needs is intended as a reference guide for national Governments, international organizations, bilateral aid agencies and non-governmental organizations in formulating plans of action for implementing the *World Declaration.* It describes three broad levels of concerted action: direct action within individual countries; cooperation among groups of countries sharing certain characteristics and concerns; and multilateral and bilateral cooperation in the world community.

The principal follow-up will be at the country level. One of the first follow-up measures is a recommendation to individual countries to conduct a *needs assessment* to ascertain what resources are required to reach their goals. With regard to external resources, multilateral, bilateral agencies and non-governmental organizations should endeavour to coordinate their actions at country-level more effectively.

UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF and the World Bank have agreed to increase support to basic education within each of their own planning frameworks, structures and resources allocation mechanisms. To this end they have decided to meet annually to coordinate their own activities in the educational field.

For further information, contact: Inter-Agency Commission, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank World Conference on Education for All, UNICEF House, 3 United Nations Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10017, USA.

Sub-Commission Provisional Agenda

The forty-second session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities will be held at the Palais des Nations (United Nations), Geneva, Switzerland from 6 to 31 August 1990.

Prior to the session, three working groups will meet, which include the Working Group on Communications (23 July to 3 August), the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (30 July to 3 August), and the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (23 July to 3 August).

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Major items to be discussed at this years session will be:

- The elimination of racial discrimination;

- The question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of *apartheid*, in all countries, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories;

- The new international economic order and the promotion of human rights;

- The realization of economic, social and cultural rights;

- Communications concerning human rights (report of the Working Group on Communications);

- The administration of justice and the human rights of detainees;

- Independence and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors and assessors and the independence of lawyers;

- Human rights and disability;

- Human rights and scientific and technological developments;

- The encouragement of universal acceptance of human rights instruments;

- Discrimination against indigenous peoples;

- Contemporary forms of slavery;

- The promotion, protection and restoration of human rights at national, regional and international levels;

- The protection of minorities; and

- The right of everyone to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

For further information, contact: Prevention of Discrimination Section, Legislation and Prevention of Discrimination Branch, Centre for Human Rights.

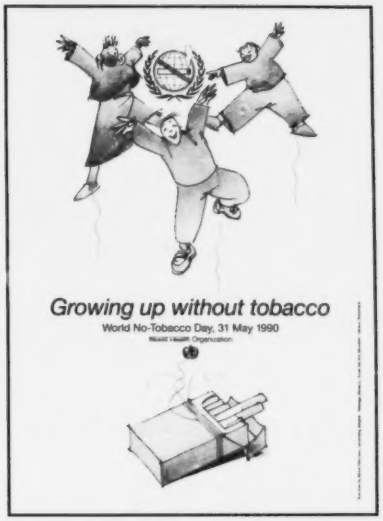
Child Rights and Tobacco

States parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health (Article 24, "Convention on the Rights of the Child").

Every child should have the right to grow up without tobacco, states Dr. Hirosi Nakajima, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), in his World No-tobacco Day message.

Each year, on 31 May, WHO aims to encourage Governments, communities, groups and individuals to be aware of the problems related to tobacco consumption. This year, the theme was *Childhood and Youth without Tobacco.*

According to Dr. Nakajima, children and adolescents are also the innocent victims of advertising. From riding to sailing, from adventure to glamour, advertisements condition children to accept smoking as part of a dream, a symbol of social status and an integral ingredient of their life.



It has been estimated that if present tobacco consumption trends continue, about 150 million children alive in the world today will eventually die of tobacco-induced diseases.

To help promote the message of growing up without tobacco, WHO has prepared a media kit including articles on: Promoting non-smoking life styles–WHO counts on schools; Finding the right laws to help young people avoid the tobacco trap; and Children at risk – passive smoking.

For copies of the kit and further information, contact: Dr. C. Chollat-Traquet, Tobacco or Health Programme, World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

Voluntary Fund Board Meets

The five-member Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations met from 23 to 27 April 1990 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Voluntary Fund was set up in 1985 to assist representatives of indigenous organizations and communities to participate in the deliberations of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations which meets each year prior to the session of the Sub-Commission on Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

At this meeting, the Board selected 21 out of 74 applicants to attend the Working Group. The financial assistance covers a round-trip air ticket from the country of origin to Geneva plus a cost of living allowance during their stay.

The Fund is financed through voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private and public entities.

The Working Group will have before it the second revised text of the draft declaration on indigenous rights prepared by the Chairman of the Working Group, Ms. Erica I. Daes, and will begin to elaborate the final text of that declaration. It will also discuss national developments regarding the human rights situation of indigenous peoples worldwide.

The Group will meet from 23 July to 3 August 1990 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The deadline for application for assistance from the Fund to attend the Working Group's 1991 session is 16 March 1991.

For further information, contact: Prevention of Discrimination Section, Legislation and Prevention of Discrimination Branch, Centre for Human Rights.

Indigenous Rights

An international symposium dealing with such issues as indigenous rights and human rights, colonization, migration and deforestation of Amazon Indian lands was held from 23 to 24 March 1990 in Paris, France. The symposium was organized by Survival International with financial support from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Some 150 persons, consisting of representatives of Indian associations, doctors, anthropologists, sociologists, historians and ethnologists reviewed programmes and

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Among the actions taken by participants of the symposium on the rights of indigenous peoples was concerning the Yanomami. According to Amnesty International, the Yanomami are threatened with extinction if present trends continue. (Photo: Peter Frey)

research on indigenous peoples and emphasized the need to inform the general public and decision-makers of the social and ecological consequences of certain development projects in the Amazon.

For further information, contact: Jean-Patrick Razon, Survival International (France), 45 rue du Faubourg du Temple, 75010 Paris, France.

Consultation on Tribal Peoples

The International Labour Office held an informal interagency consultation on indigenous and tribal peoples from 15 to 16 May 1990 in Geneva, Switzerland. It was attended by six other agencies, including the Centre for Human Rights, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Programme.

During the meeting, questions of coordination relating to standard-setting and implementation of standards, training and technical assistance projects were discussed in detail.

A follow-up meeting is planned within one year's time.

Human Rights and the Media

The Role of the Media in the Defence and Effective Implementation of Human Rights was the theme of a conference held in Sintra, Portugal, from 20 to 26 May 1990. The conference, attended by journalists, human rights specialists, and representatives of international and non-governmental organizations, was a joint initiative of the International Academy for Development in Freedom (Portugal), the Freidrich Naumann Foundation and the Centre for Human Rights. It was organized within the framework of the United Nations World Information Campaign for Human Rights.

The major objective of the conference was to discuss the relationship between the media and the protection and effective implementation of human rights and to propose measures for improving the present situation.

Participants concluded that human rights and dignity should be central to a journalist's concerns, and in meeting this objective, it is vital to protect the freedom of the media. Journalists should be provided with formal training in human rights, including courses, workshops and seminars, in order to develop their understanding of all facets in this area.

The need was recognized for journalists to cooperate with the United Nations in its world campaign to disseminate information on human rights. Equally, the importance of stimulating the development of national, regional and international information networks in order to increase the effectiveness of non-governmental organizations, journalists and other individuals, was also emphasized.

The Centre for Human Rights expressed its willingness to provide the media with information on a regular basis.

For further information, contact: J. Bettencourt da Câmara, International Academy for Development in Freedom, Quinta da Ribafria, Apt. 176, 2711 Sintra Codex, Portugal.

Reorganization of the UN Centre for Human Rights

A rapidly changing international environment and an unprecedented expansion of United Nations activities in the field of human rights, including the increasing requests for advisory and technical assistance, has recently necessitated a re-organization of the Centre for Human Rights.

This new structure serves to reflect the three main functions of the United Nations work in this area: legislation (standard setting); implementation of standards; and technical assistance and information/education to ensure respect for human rights. Each of these functions will now be concentrated in a separate branch.

The main purpose for the reorganization is to ensure greater flexibility and mobility in the utilization of staff resources and thereby maximize efficiency. The establishment of sections within structured branches also aims to facilitate the flow of information and to eliminate duplication and overlapping of work. The three branches will be as follows:

● *LEGISLATION AND PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION BRANCH* – Organizes and coordinates the work programme of the two

sections on Research and Standards and Prevention of Discrimination.

● *IMPLEMENTATION BRANCH* – Organizes and coordinates the work programme of three sections on International Instruments, Special Procedures and Communications.

● *ADVISORY SERVICES, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION BRANCH* – Organizes and coordinates the work programme of the two sections on Advisory Services and Technical Assistance and External Relations.

For further information, contact: External Relations Section, Advisory Services, Technical Assistance and Information Branch, Centre for Human Rights.

Human Rights Committee Holds Session

The thirty-eighth session of the Human Rights Committee was held in New York, USA from 19 March to 6 April 1990. At this time, the 18-member Committee of Experts examined how six States parties to the International Covenant on Civil the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights had complied with the provisions of the Covenant as outlined in their reports. The States parties were Argentina, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Nicaragua, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

COMMUNICATIONS EXAMINED

Under the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant, individuals who claim that any of their rights enumerated in the Covenant have been violated, and who have exhausted all available domestic remedies, may submit written communications to the Human Rights Committee for consideration. At this session, the Committee examined a number of communications, of which two cases were considered closed. The views adopted by the Committee concerning these two are available upon request.

The next session will meet from 9 to 27 July in Geneva, Switzerland.

For further information, contact: International Instruments Section, Implementation Branch, Centre for Human Rights.

Human Rights Instruments and the USA

Two meetings were held in the United States recently to examine what action should be taken to encourage that country to ratify the two major human rights covenants– the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights:

THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS: Freeing the Political Logjam (9 to 10 March 1990)– Approximately 90 persons attended this meeting organized by the University of Georgia School of Law, including students, professors, lobbyists, and human rights experts from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the Centre for Human Rights and the Department of State.

The aims were to review why the United States has not yet ratified the Covenants and to explore ways to place this question on the U.S. Senate's active agenda in order to hold hearings. There was a general consensus at this time that the human rights-oriented NGOs should play a major role in getting the Senate to take action. NGOs, it was felt, should organize a nationwide campaign, lobbying and writing to all 100 Senators, asking them to recognize this goal as an important item which must be placed on the Senate's agenda.

Proceedings of the meeting will be published by the University of Georgia. For further information, contact: Louis B. Sohn, President, University of Georgia School of Law, Athens, Georgia 30602, USA.

UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL BILL OF HUMAN RIGHTS (3 April 1990) – Organized by the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, this meeting served as a follow-up to the one held at the University of Georgia. The venue, New York, was selected to coincide with the thirty-eighth session of the United Nations Human Rights Committee in order to include Committee members in the discussions.

The purpose of this gathering was to bring together NGOs and human rights experts to discuss plans for achieving ratification of the covenants. There was a general agreement that the year 1991, the 215th anniversary of the United

Participants at the University of Georgia's School of Law roundtable on the United States Constitution and International Human Rights Instruments.

States Declaration of Independence, would be an appropriate occasion to mobilize and generate interest in ratification.

For further information, contact: Margaret Nicholson, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, 330 Seventh Avenue, 10th Floor N, New York, N.Y. 10001, USA.

INTERVIEW:

Brian Burdekin,
Federal Human Rights Commissioner, Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission

Brian Burdekin, Federal Human Rights Commissioner of the Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, recently provided comments to questions posed by the Centre for Human Rights (CHR):

CHR: Mr. Burdekin, could you explain how the Commission is constituted?

Brian Burdekin: Our Commission was established under federal law in 1986, completely independent of the Government. At present, there are four Commissioners, each dealing with a specific concern – race, sex discrimination, privacy and other human rights. Our charter is based on United Nations human rights instruments, including the international Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Labour Organisation Convention in Respect of Discrimination in Employment and Occupation, the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons, the Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons, and the Declaration on the Rights of the Child.

CHR: How would you describe the Commission's activities?

Brian Burdekin: The types of activity found in the United Nations human rights programme are broadly similar to those found in the legislation under which the Commission operates. The Commission is very much aware of the importance of functioning as an effective and integrated body for complaint handling, education, promotion, and policy formation, dealing with a wide range of human rights matters addressed in our charter.

CHR: What then, is within the Commission's jurisdiction?

Brian Burdekin: The Commission has authority in a variety of situations. For example, it can accept complaints (from individuals or groups) of breaches of the rights set out in the instruments within our charter. In the case of race discrimination, sex discrimination, and discrimination in employment, the Commission can consider complaints in both the private sector and in Government. However, under the Civil and Political Rights Covenant and the declarations on the rights of children and of people with disabilities, the Commission's jurisdiction is limited to complaints against the Federal Government or its instrumentalities. All of the Commission's areas of complaint handling emphasize settling of complaints by conciliation, which not only promotes resolution of individual disputes but promotes the broader goal of attitudinal change in the community.

The Commission also has determinative powers. The Commissioners have the power to refer a complaint made under the Sex or Racial Discrimination Acts which has not been settled by conciliation to the Commission for a hearing and determination. These hearings are conducted in public and so have a high educational value. They remind the community of the unacceptability of conduct that violates human rights and they promote awareness of what constitutes a human right. The Commission, however, is not an enforcement agency. Any order arising out of such hearings may ultimately be enforced only by the Federal Court of Australia.

CHR: Could you cite other such powers?

Brian Burdekin: One of the most significant and innovative powers given to the Commission is the power to conduct national inquiries. This power is not only much broader than the individual complaint handling process, it also enables the Commission to investigate and report upon human rights problems of a more general nature. The Commission also has the power to intervene in private lawsuits which involve human rights issues. This helps to ensure that human rights arguments are put before the courts where relevant. In the longer term, it will also help to increase Australian judges' awareness of human rights principles. In addition to what I've already mentioned, the Commission has the power to review federal legislation for any inconsistency with the human rights instruments. We can also propose legislation or other measures we consider necessary for Australia to comply with its international obligations on human rights.

CHR: You mention "promotion" of human rights as one of the Commision's activities. Could you give an example?

Brian Burdekin: A large part of our mandate and activity is directed to promoting what might be called a "culture of human rights" in Australian society and within Government. For example: The passage of the Sex Discrimination Act was a significant milestone in achieving equality of opportunity for women in Australia. But without an accessible means of dealing with complaints, such as is provided by the Commission's conciliation functions, simply making discrimination unlawful would be of limited benefit. There is also a continuing need for programmes of education and information of the kind conducted by the Commission–to inform women of their rights and to encourage employers, for example, to take steps to prevent discrimination from occurring.

CHR: What relationship does the Commission have with human rights-oriented non-governmental organizations (NGOs)?

Brian Burdekin: As Human Rights Commissioner, I work closely with

many NGOs. In fact, the legislation under which our Commission operates, specifically refers to this kind of cooperation. In my experience, the participation of community organizations and advocacy groups is essential to an effective programme for any national Commission.

CHR: Do you, personally, have a particular goal in mind concerning the Commission's work?

Brian Burdekin: Perhaps I could say that, just as we in Australia are increasingly aware of the relevance of international standards and the need to learn from international experience, it is my hope that aspects of the Australian system and experience may be useful to other countries in considering how to improve human rights protection and to implement the programme set out in the Universal Declaration.

ECOSOC Acts on Human Rights Issues

Human rights questions and the advancement of women were among the major items acted upon during the first regular session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which met in New York from 2 to 25 May 1990.

Concerning the human rights situation in South Africa, the Council condemned the South African Government for its imposition of a state of emergency, the forcible separation of black families and the detention and imprisonment of women and children. It urged the international community not to relax sanctions against South Africa until all the provisions of the Declaration on *Apartheid* and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, adopted by the General Assembly last December, had been met. The Council also invited all Governments to take the necessary measures to combat all forms of racism and racial discrimination and to support the work of the Second Decade by making contributions to the Voluntary Fund for the Programme of the Decade of Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

In particular, the Council also:

- Requested the Secretary-General to organize a meeting of representatives of national institutions and organizations to examine how best to combat racism and racial discrimination;

- Adopted a number of resolutions concerning the situation of women, including a request to the Secretary-General to mount a campaign, through the Department of Public Information, to increase awareness of the obstacles encountered in the implementation of the *Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies to the Year 2000*, adopted at the 1985 United Nations Conference on Women. It also urged Governments, international and non-governmental organizations to implement the recommendations grouped under the themes of equality, development and peace, and national machinery, and requested the Secretary-General to give them wide distribution;

- Decided to increase the membership of the Commission on Human Rights from 43 to 53 and to allocate the ten additional seats among the regional groups of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean on the basis of equitable geographical distribution;

- Urgently requested the Secretary-General to provide more human and financial resources for the enlargement of advisory services in the field of human rights;

- Requested the Secretary-General to include in the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993 programme and resource suggestions for intermediary measures and long-term solutions to the logistical and human resources support problems concerning the activities of the Centre for Human Rights, especially regarding its increased responsibilities and the failure of resources to keep pace with this growth;

- Authorized the inclusion in its 1992-1993 budget of annual recurrent costs the computerization of the work of human rights treaty-monitoring bodies;

- Authorized the Commission on Human Rights to establish a working group to examine communications relating to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms which might be referred to the Commission by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities;

- Approved the holding of a pre-sessional working group from one to three months prior to the session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and

- Approved the convening of a workshop to review cooperation with national institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Second Inter-Agency Meeting

A second inter-agency meeting for United Nations organizations and specialized agencies was organized by the Centre for Human Rights on 12 March 1990 in Geneva, Switzerland to review present actions and plans concerning human rights programmes of technical assistance, information and education. The first meeting was held on 12 April 1989.

Representatives speaking on behalf of 17 different organizations provided information on past and present activities and expressed great interest in intensifying cooperative initiatives.

A summary report of the meeting is available from: External Relations Section, Advisory Services, Technical Assistance and Information Branch, Centre for Human Rights.

OAU Delegation Visits Centre

Closer cooperation between the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Centre for Human Rights was discussed during a visit by OAU's Secretary-General, Salim A. Salim, to the Centre's headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting, which was held on 11 June 1990, was attended by representatives from the OAU and the Centre for Human Rights.

The Centre for Human Rights plans to provide the African Commission, inaugurated on 12 June 1989 in Banjul, The Gambia, with techni-

cal and material support and human rights publications. Special assistance to non-governmental organizations and national commissions aimed at strengthening the Commission will also be offered, in addition to collaborating with academic institutions promoting human rights.

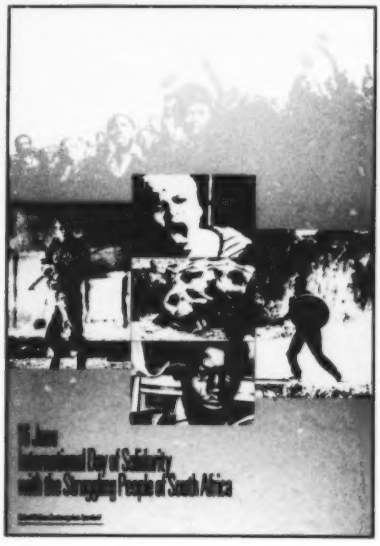
UN Team to Visit South Africa

A United Nations team of senior officials, headed by Under-Secretary General Abdulrahim Farah, visited South Africa from 9 to 29 June to endeavour to obtain factual information on the various measures and proposals aimed at bringing about an end to the *apartheid* system. The team met with members of the Government and with representatives of political parties and movements and other concerned organizations.

Such information will assist the United Nations Secretary-General in the preparation of his report to the General Assembly on the progress made in the implementation of the Declaration on *Apartheid* and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa. The Declaration, which was adopted at the sixteenth special session of the General Assembly last December, requested that the report be prepared by 1 July 1990.

NELSON MANDELA IN GENEVA

During a brief visit on 8 June to Geneva, Switzerland, Nelson Mandela, Deputy President of the African National Congress, appealed to participants of the 77th General Assembly of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to support economic sanctions against South Africa until all obstacles to a negotiated end of the *apartheid* system were removed. He said that he looked forward to a post-*apartheid* South Africa which would ensure every citizen the right to their language, culture and religion. He pledged that the *new* South Africa would have to ratify the conventions that the ILO has adopted over the decades, to ensure that the humane purposes intended by the promulgation of such conventions are realized.



Committee against Torture Meets

The fourth session of the Committee against Torture was held in Geneva, Switzerland from 23 April to 4 May 1990. Initial reports submitted by five States parties to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment were examined by the 10-member monitoring body. The States parties were China, the Netherlands, Senegal, Tunisia and the Ukranian Soviet Socialist Republic.

The Committee also considered in closed meetings information which appeared to indicate that torture was being systematically practised by a State party. That State party was invited to participate in the examination of the information.

The Convention against Torture specifies that States parties shall outlaw torture in their internal laws and prohibits using *higher orders* or *exceptional circumstances* as excuses for acts of torture. They are required to take effective measures to prevent acts of torture in any territory under their jurisdiction. They also undertake not to expel, return or extradite a person to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that he or she would be in danger of being subjected to torture.

For further information, contact: International Instruments Section, Implementation Branch, Centre for Human Rights.

Field Mission to Middle East

A field mission to review the latest developments relating to the human rights situation in the territories occupied by Israel was conducted by the United Nations Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. The mission lasted from 21 May to 5 June 1990 and included visits to Damascus, (Syria), Amman, (Jordan) and Cairo, (Egypt).

During their visit, the members of the Special Committee met with high-ranking officials and heard from some 50 witnesses with first-hand experience about the situation in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. According to all those interviewed, there continued to be a high casualty rate among civilians resulting from the harsh methods used in trying to quell the uprising of the population. Many stressed the growing number of children killed or wounded, often as a result of shooting or beating by Israeli soldiers.

The Special Committee was informed about the continuing difficult economic conditions affecting the civilian population, including the disproportionally high percentage of taxation, the arbitrary nature of administrative and judicial decisions, the raiding and demolition of houses, the expropriation of land and expansion of existing settlements as well as the creation of new ones.

Many testimonies were also heard denouncing inhuman treatment of Palestinians during detention and the denial of the fundamental right to a fair trial.

The Special Committee will meet again in Geneva, Switzerland from 27 to 30 August 1990 to consider and adopt its twenty-second report to the United Nations General Assembly.

Hungarian Centre for Human Rights

A Hungarian Centre for Human Rights has been created under the auspices of the Institute of Political and Legal Sciences of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The aims of the Centre will be to maintain contacts with foreign scientific institutions concerned with human rights as well as with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and the Council of Europe, collect Hungarian legal materials relating to human rights and to keep a record of Hungarian scientific publications in this field, publish major Hungarian enactments in foreign languages, and publish foreign official documents and scientific works dealing with the international protection of human rights.

In recent years, the Institute has been involved in drafting or amending both the Constitution of Hungary and the new legislation on human rights.

For further information, contact: Prof. Hanna Bokor-Szego, Scientific Director, Hungarian Centre for Human Rights, Institute of Political and Legal Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, I., Orszaghaz Utca 30., H-1250 Budapest, P.O. Box 25, Hungary.

UN/IGO Events 1990

9-27 July Thirty-ninth Session of the Human Rights Committee. Venue: Geneva, Switzerland. Contact: International Instruments Section, Implementation Branch, Centre for Human Rights.

6-24 August Meeting of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Venue: Geneva, Switzerland. Contact: International Instruments Section, Implementation Branch. Centre for Human Rights.

27 August–7 September Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. Venue: Havana, Cuba. Contact: Kurt Neudek, Officer-in-Charge, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, Vienna International Centre, P.O.B. 500, A-1400, Vienna, Austria.

NGO Events 1990

NGOs are encouraged to provide information on their activities to the Centre for Human Rights in Geneva. It is understood, however, that the Centre does not assume any responsibility for the views expressed by participants in NGO events noted in the "Newsletter".

6-9 June Seventh Seminar on Humanitarian Issues in the Contemporary World in East and West Berlin. Venue: Berlin. Contact: Prof. J. Patrnogic, President, International Institute of Humanitarian Law, C.P. 301, 1211 Geneva 19, Switzerland.

11-14 June Second Course/Workshop on International Human Rights Protection. Venue: Lima, Peru. Contact: Diego García-Sayán, Executive Director, Andean Commission of Jurists, Los Sauces 285, San Isidro, Lima 27, Peru.

27 June Meeting of the NGO Sub-Committee on Racism, Racial Discrimination, *Apartheid* and Decolonization. Venue: Geneva, Switzerland. Contact: Secretariat, 1, rue de Varembé, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.

28 June–7 July Fifth Seminar on International Protection of Human Rights, Their Application and Teaching in the Arab World. Contact: International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Science. Via S. Agati, 12–96100 Siracusa, Italy.

11-12 July Conference on New Dimensions Regarding the International Protection of Individuals. Venue: Santiago, Chile. Contact: María Teresa Infante C., Director, Institute of International Studies, University of Chile, Condell 249, Santiago, Chile.

17-20 September Thirtieth Congress of the International Abolitionist Federation on the theme, Exploitation of Prostitution: Violation of Human Rights; Children the First Victims. Venue: Geneva, Switzerland. Contact: Anima Basak, President, International Abolitionist Federation, Kahlenberger Strasse 61/9 A-1190, Vienna, Austria.

24-28 September Seminar on the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Venue: Siracusa, Italy. Contact: Niall Mac Dermot, Secretary-General, International Commission of Jurists, P.O.B. 120, 109, rte. de Chêne, 1224 Chêne-Bougeries, Geneva, Switzerland.

New Publications

Double Jeopardy–Threat to Life and Human Rights: Discrimination against Persons with AIDS. By Roberta Cohen & Laurie S. Wiseberg. March 1990. 48 pp. A survey of AIDS as an international human rights issue and of international efforts to combat discrimination against persons with AIDS. Contact: Human Rights Internet, Harvard Law School, Pound Hall 401, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA.

(a) Sixth United Nations International NGO Meeting on the Question of Palestine. (30 August–1 September 1989), 90-07520.

(b) Twenty-third United Nations Seminar on the Question of Palestine (Sixth Asian Regional Seminar, 18-22 December 1989) and Third United Nations Asian Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine (18-21 December 1989), 90-09569. 52 pp.

(c) The United Nations and non-governmental organization activities on the question of Palestine. February 1990, 90-04850. 12 pp.

Contact: Division for Palestinian Rights, United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017, USA.

(a) Factors and Conditions Conducive to Academic Freedom. Report of WUS/UNESCO Seminar, 24-26 May 1989, Paris. 40 pp. Report of the seminar held in Paris which summarizes the papers, presentations, discussions and conclusions.

(b) WUS & Human Rights. January 1990, No. 1. (Bulletin)

Contact: World University Service, 5 chemin des Iris, 1216 Geneva, Switzerland.

Ethnies: Droits de l'homme et peuples autochtones. Bresil – Indiens et developpement en Amazonie, 11-12, printemps 1990, ISSN 0295-9151. 148 pp. FF100. Contact: Jean-Patrick Razon, Survival International, Section francaise, 45 rue du Faubourg du Temple, 75010 Paris, France.

Refugees: Human Rights–A firm basis for refugee policy in Europe. Special issue, May 1990. 22 pp. Contact: Refugee Service of the Commission on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service, World Council of Churches, P.O. Box 2100, 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland.

Rivista internazionale dei diritti dell'uomo. ISSN 0394-6495, 1989, 170 pp. Articles by Italian scholars and experts on international human rights issues. Contact: Marinella Fumagalli Meravigha, 1-20123 Milan, Italy.

Sharing a Better Life Together Through Human Rights: The Québec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms Explained to Young People. By Constance Leduc and

Philippe Robert de Massy. ISBN 2-89113-198-3, 1989. Contact: Modulo Editeur, 233 Dunbar Avenue, Suite 300, Mont-Royal, Québec, Canada H3P 2H4.

Pour la liberté et la dignité en Afrique. March 1990, No. 1. FS3.-; FF10.-. Bulletin of the International Committee for the Respect and Application of the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights. Contact: CIRAC/ICRAC, P.O. Box 82, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.

(a) Canadian Human Rights Yearbook, 1989-1990. April 1990, ISBN 2-7603-0279-2. $25.- 384 pp.

(b) The Bibliography on Human Rights. (Available as a data base on the "Quicklaw" on-line information service).

(c) Human Rights Research and Education Bulletin. $15.- (individuals); $20.- (institutions).

Contact: Human Rights Centre, University of Ottawa, 57 Louis Pasteur, Ottawa K1N 6N5, Canada.

Human Rights Violations and Standard Formats: Towards Compatibility in Recording and Transferring Information, February 1990, No. 9 (special issue). 38 pp. Contact: HURIDOCS Advice and Support Unit/Secretariat, Torggate 27, N-0183 Oslo 1, Norway.

UN Bulletin of Human Rights: Implementation of International Human Rights Instruments, 89/1, ISSN 0251-7019, March 1990. 90 pp. Includes such articles as: The international instruments on the protection of human rights in the USSR and their interpretation in USSR judicial practice; Defending the human rights of parliamentarians; and Human rights as an element of foreign policy. Contact: External Relations Section, Advisory Services, Technical Assistance and Information Branch, Centre for Human Rights.

(a) Human Rights and "Participatory Development". By Dilys Hill. November 1989. 18 pp.

(b) The Right to Development: Problems and Potential. By Sammy Adelman. November 1989. 18 pp.

(c) Rights and Reality in International Relations: The Case of Development. By Caroline Thomas. November 1989. 16 pp.

(d) An Underlying International Economic Law Problem of the Right to Development. By Michael K. Addo. November 1989. 18 pp.

(e) The Right to Development and the Industrialisation of Less Developed Countries: The Case of Compensation for Major Industrial Accidents Involving Foreign-Owned Corporations. By P.T. Muchlinski. November 1989. 22 pp.

(f) Whose Human Right to Development? By Yash Ghai. November 1989. 18 pp.

(g) The Human Right to Development. By Ian Brownlie. November 1989. 71 pp.

Contact: Human Rights Unit Occasional Paper, Human Rights in Development Studies, Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HX, United Kingdom.

First Human Rights Course at Arab Institute

Panelists at the training course, from right to left: Mohammed Charfi, Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research (and co-founder of the Arab Institute); Hassib Ben Amar, Chairman of the Arab Institute; Jan Martenson, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights; and Hela Abdel-Jawed, member of the Arab Institute's Governing Board.

The first human rights training course of the Arab Institute for Human Rights, organized under the patronage of the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, was held from 12 to 18 March 1990 in Tunis, Tunisia. The course was dedicated to the memory of its co-founder and Vice-President of the Governing Board, Munzer Anabtawi, who died in January.

Forty-three representatives from the Arab region attended the course, consisting of lawyers, administrators, journalists, teachers, doctors and students.

Discussion centred around: the United Nations and the Rights of the Palestinian Peoples; the United Nations and Human Rights: Instruments and Mechanisms; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: Standard-Setting, Research and Documentation; the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights; Defending Human Rights in the Arab Region: the Role of the Arab Organization for Human Rights and the Arab Union of Lawyers; International Human-rights Oriented Non-governmental Organizations: the Case of Amnesty International; the Creation of an Arab Charter of Human Rights; and Ways and Means for Disseminating Human Rights Principles.

For further information, contact: Hassib Ben Ammar, Institut Arab des droits de l'homme, (new address) 23 rue Mohieddine Klibi, El Manar III, Tunis 1004, Tunisia.

The Centre for Human Rights is the lead agency of the United Nations in the field of human rights. It provides secretariat and substantive services to United Nations bodies concerned with human rights questions, administers the programme of advisory services and technical assistance on human rights, and co-ordinates the relevant activities of the World Campaign for Human Rights within the United Nations system. It ensures liaison with Governments, non-governmental organizations, external institutions and the media, and is responsible for the collection, production and dissemination of human rights publications.

Further information: United Nations Centre for Human Rights, Palais des Nations, 8-14 avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Telephone: (4122) 734 60 11/731 02 11; telex: 289696; fax: 7339879; cable: UNATIONS, Geneva; or New York Office, Centre for Human Rights, United Nations Headquarters, New York, N.Y. 10017, USA.

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Human Rights Newsletter

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Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities Meets: *Appeals for a Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination*

A recommendation to the United Nations General Assembly to take appropriate steps to launch a Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination in 1993, and a request to the Secretary-General to consider ways and means to respond to urgent situations and new trends involving racism, discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia, were among the 17 resolutions and three decisions taken by the Sub-Commission at its forty-second session, held in Geneva, Switzerland from 6 to 31 August 1990.

These particular resolutions were the result of a series of debates over the fact that the principal objectives of the first two decades to combat racism and racial discrimination had not been attained and that there were signs of an upsurge of racism, prejudice and intolerance in many parts of the world directed against ethnic, national, religious and linguistic minorities, indigenous peoples, migrant workers and other vulnerable groups.

The 26-body Sub-Commission, a subsidiary body of the Commission on Human Rights is responsible for undertaking studies and making recommendations to the Commission concerning the prevention of discrimination of any kind relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms and the protection of racial, religious, ethnic and linguistic minorities.

Danilo Türk, Chairman (left in photo), with Moctar Cissé, Secretary, at the opening session of the Sub-Commission.

In statements made during the opening meeting, newly-elected Sub-Commission Chairman Danilo Türk, expert from Yugoslavia, and Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, Jan Martenson, highlighted the impact of the considerable changes in the world over the last year on the work of the Sub-Commission. This year the Sub-Commission had the greatest number of items on its agenda of all its previous 41 sessions.

At this time, Mr. Martenson, also Coordinator for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, stressed the need for the international community to continue to give the highest priority to programmes combatting racism and racial discrimination and to intensify efforts to provide assistance and relief to victims of racism and all forms of racial discrimination and *apartheid*. Necessary measures should equally be taken to give effect to the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which would come to a close in 1993.

ISSUES DEBATED

During the session, a wide range of issues were considered relating to the elimination of racial discrimination, measures to combat racism and *apartheid*, violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in various parts of the world, administration of justice and human rights of detainees, rights of indigenous peoples and minorities, human rights and scientific and technological developments, protection and restoration of human rights, the new international economic order and the promotion of human rights, slavery and slavery-like practices, encouragement of universal acceptance of human rights instruments, traditional practices affecting the health of women and children, and communications concerning human rights. Other questions of further study included the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, compensation for victims of gross violations of human rights, discrimination against persons with human immuno-deficiency virus (HIV) or with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), protection of United Nations staff members, the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and the right to a fair trial.

Events taking place in the world also had a direct bearing on the issues examined by the Sub-Commission at this time. The situation in the Gulf elicited an appeal from the Sub-Commission to Iraq to allow all foreigners to leave Iraq and occupied Kuwait. Israel was asked to allow three Palestinian representatives to attend the Fourth Non-Governmental Organizations Symposium on the Question of Palestine.

Throughout the session, the Chairman of the Sub-Commission, the Chairman of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the United Nations Secretary-General were kept informed by the Government of Canada of the process of negotiations taking place concerning a land dispute between the Mohawks of Oka and the authorities of Quebec. The Sub-Commission appealed for a negotiated resolution to this dispute.

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED

In addition to addressing the human rights situation in South Africa, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Guatemala, Palestinian and other

An International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was first designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 1971. Noting the progress achieved during this time, the General Assembly recommended that the measures and activities undertaken be continued, developed and enlarged. By 1973, (10 December, Human Rights Day), a decade for vigorous and continued mobilization against racism and racial discrimination was proclaimed.

In 1983, at the end of the first Decade, the General Assembly designated the period from 1983 to 1993 as the Second Decade, with the objectives of providing for action to combat *apartheid*, giving support to education, teaching and training about racism and racial discrimination, disseminating information and exploring the role of the mass media in combatting such phenomena, and developing measures for the promotion and protection of the human rights of persons belonging to minority groups, indigenous peoples and migrant workers who are subjected to racial discrimination.

Programme activity plans for 1990-1991 include studies, meetings and seminars on: the extent to which migrant workers' children receive an education in their mother tongue; national experience in self-government for indigenous peoples; the impact of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in providing guarantees of equality to minorities; legislation to combat racism and racial discrimination; community relations commissions; and experience in implementing the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Activities proposed for 1992 to 1993 include: experts' discussions on preparing teaching materials to combat racism and racial discrimination; additional language versions of the handbook of recourse procedures for victims of discrimination; workshops on legislation to combat discrimination; an international campaign on the main obstacles to eradicating discrimination and *apartheid;* a study on the treatment of political prisoners and detainees in South Africa and Namibia, particulary women and children; and the extent of the dissemination of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

TRUST FUNDS

Governments, organizations and individuals are strongly encouraged to contribute generously to United Nations trust funds which serve to help combat racism and racial discrimination. The funds include:

● *VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE PROGRAMME OF THE DECADE OF ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION*–Contributions will help implement programme activities up to the end of 1993.

● *VOLUNTARY FUND FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES*–Contributions provide for travel expenses of indigenous representatives to the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. Approximately 100 applications were received in 1990, yet only 20 to 30 persons were able to be accomodated.

Arab territories occupied by Israel, Iraq in occupied Kuwait, El Salvador, and East Timor, various resolutions and decisions adopted by the Sub-Commission included:

- A request, following the Special Rapporteur's study highlighting the disturbing situation of United Nations staff members, experts and their families detained, missing or held in a country against their will, that on the commemoration of the forty-second anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, on 10 December 1990, this situation be described to the general public and that the existing means of guaranteeing the independence and security of United Nations officials be examined;

- A request to the Secretary-General to prepare, on the basis of replies obtained from Governments, specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, an overview of trends in racism, discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia affecting those groups, as well as measures taken by Governments against those phenomena and the effects of such measures;

- A recommendation to the Commission on Human Rights to adopt the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery's Programme of Action for the Elimination of the Exploitation of Child Labour;

- An invitation to the Commission on Human Rights to request the Secretary-General to organize a seminar, under the United Nations programme of human rights activities in 1992-1993, for discussion of appropriate indicators to measure achievements in the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights;

- A decision to entrust two Special Rapporteurs with the preparation of a study entitled *The right to a fair trial: current recognition and measures necessary for its strengthening*. A preliminary report based upon their study, responses to the questionnaire and ways of formulating the basic guarantees necessary for a fair trial into an international standard-like model code, would be submitted to the forty-third session of the Sub-Commission and to the Commission on Human Rights for comments at the Commission's forty-eighth session;

- A decision to entrust a Special Rapporteur with the preparation of a report entailing a system-wide analysis of the advisory service and technical assistance programmes of the United Nations as regards the independence of the judiciary and the protection of practising lawyers as well as to bring to the attention of the Sub-Commission information on legislative or judicial measures or other practices which have served to strengthen or to undermine the independence of the judiciary and the protection of practicing lawyers in accordance with United Nations standards;

- A decision to entrust a Special Rapporteur with the preparation of a method and plan of work for a study on human rights and extreme poverty;

- The adoption of a draft declaration on the protection of all persons from enforced or involuntary disappearances;

- A request to the Secretary-General to promote the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights so that practical assistance in the process of ratification and implementation of international instruments on human rights be available for those States which indicate a need for such assistance;

- A decision to entrust a Special Rapporteur with the preparation of a working paper on the question of the ownership and control of the cultural property of indigenous peoples for submission to the ninth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations;

- A recommendation to the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund on Indigenous Populations to give priority to applications for assistance from indigenous organizations in the developing countries;

- An appeal to Governments, indigenous peoples, and non-governmental organizations to consider making contributions to the Voluntary Fund for Advisory Services in the Field of Human Rights, to support training courses and information activities aimed at preparing indigenous peoples' organizations to play a more effective role in the Working Group;

- A request to the Secretary-General to organize a regional training course in Latin America on the United Nations, human rights and indigenous peoples, as a matter of the highest priority;

- A request to the Secretary-General that a meeting of experts be convened on indigenous self-government, as well as a technical conference on achieving environmentally sound and sustainable self-development for indigenous peoples;

- A recommendation to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, when it examines the periodic reports of States parties to the International Covenant, to give particular attention to the implementation of articles 10, 12 and 13, with a view to improving the situation of children and eliminating the contemporary forms of slavery affecting children and the exploitation of child labour;

- A recommendation to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, when it examines the reports of States parties to the Convention, to give particular attention to the implementation of the provisions of article 6, with a view to the suppression of all forms of traffic of women; and

- A recommendation to the International Labour Organisation supervisory bodies and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Committee on Conventions and Recommendations to give particular attention in their work to the implementation of provisions and standards designed to ensure protection of children and other persons exposed to contemporary forms of slavery, such as the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the exploitation of child labour, bonded labour and the traffic in persons. A request to the future Committee on the Rights of the Child was also made, asking that full attention be given these occurences. In addition, the international community was called upon, in a programme of action for the elimination of the exploitation of child labour, to focus in particular on the use of children for illegal, clandestine or criminal purposes, including their implication in the narcotic drugs traffic or in armed conflicts or military activities.

PRE-SESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS

Prior to the Sub-Commission, three pre-sessional working groups met:

● *Communications* (23 July to 3 August). All meetings were held in closed session.

● *Contemporary Forms of Slavery* (30 July to 3 August). The main theme of the session was the eradication of the exploitation of child labour and of debt bondage. Areas under discussion also included a review of developments in other fields of contemporary forms of slavery (including slavery and the slave trade), sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, prevention of traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others, and the slavery-like practices of *apartheid* and colonialism. The theme for 1991 will be the prevention of traffic of persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others.

● *Working Group on Indigenous Populations* (23 July to 3 August). The working group reviewed developments pertaining to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the evolution of standards concerning the rights of indigenous peoples, the study of treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between States and indigenous peoples, and ways of broadening the scope and activities of the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations.

A five-member sessional working group was also established at this time to examine how the Sub-Commission could best fulfil its mandate with regard to alleged human rights violations and to seek ways to avoid any proliferation of studies, draft resolutions or decisions on issues already being dealt with by the Commission on Human Rigths.

Seminar on Racism Planned

An International Seminar on Political, Historical, Economic, Social and Cultural Factors contributing to Racism, Racial Discrimination and *Apartheid* is being planned for 10 to

SELECTED READING

● *Elimination of Racial Discrimination: Measures to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the Role of the Sub-Commission: Study on the Achievements Made and Obstacles Encountered During the Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.* Report by A. Eide, Special Rapporteur. (United Nations ECOSOC documents: E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/8 and E/CN 4./Sub.2/1989/8/Add.1).

● *Elimination of Racial Discrimination: Adverse Consequences for the Enjoyment of Human Rights of Political, Military, Economic and Other Forms of Assistance Given to the Racist and Colonialist Regime of South Africa.* Updated report prepared by Ahmad M. Khalifa, Special Rapporteur. (United Nations ECOSOC document: E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/13).

● *Contemporary Forms of Slavery: Report of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery on its Fifteenth Session.* Prepared by F.Z. Ksentini, Chairman-Rapporteur. (United Nations ECOSOC document: E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/44).

● *Discrimination Against Indigenous Peoples: Report of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations on its Eighth Session.* Prepared by Erica-Irene A. Daes, Chairman-Rapporteur. (United Nations ECOSOC document: E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/42).

● *The First Twenty Years: Progress Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racism and Racial Discrimination.* Study of the Committee's progress made towards the achievement of the objectives of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (in preparation). For further information, contact International Instruments Section, Centre for Human Rights).

● *Report of the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, Geneva, 1-12 August 1983 (United Nations publication,* A/Conf.119/26; Sales No.E.83.XIV.4).

● *Advisory Services in the Field of Human Rights: Report of the United Nations Seminar on the Effects of Racism on the Social and Economic Relations Between Indigenous Peoples and States.* (United Nations ECOSOC document: E/CN.4/1989/22).

● *Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination: Report on the International Seminar on Cultural Dialogue Between the Countries of Origin and the Host Countries of Migrant Workers.* (United Nations ECOSOC document: E/CN.4/1990/50).

● *Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination: Global Consultation on Racism and Racial Discrimination Held at Geneva from 3 to 6 October 1988. A Summary.* (Fact Sheet No. 5. Copies may be obtained from the External Relations Section, Centre for Human Rights).

● *The Effects of Racism and Racial Discrimination on the Social and Economic Relations Between Indigenous Peoples and States: Report of a Seminar, Geneva, 16 to 20 January 1989.* (Copies may be obtained from the External Relations Section, Centre for Human Rights).

● *The Gaia Atlas of First Peoples: A Future for the Indigenous World.* By Julian Burger. ISBN 1-85365-113-3. 192 pp. £8.95. Copies available in English. Published by Robertson McCarta Limited, 122 Kings's Cross Road, London WC1X 9DS, United Kingdom. Prepared in collaboration with indigenous peoples, human rights experts, concerned anthropologists and journalists, the author brings together a multitude of views and situations of the world's 250 million indigenous peoples, described as the most disadvantaged groups in society.

● *Amnesty International 1990 Report.* (Covering the period January to December 1989). ISBN 0-86210-177-8. 298 pp. Amnesty International Publications, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ, United Kingdom. A report on human rights violations in 138 countries, with particular emphasis on the situation facing minorities and ethnic groups worldwide.

● *World Directory of Minorities. 1989.* Prepared by the Minority Rights Group, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, Fiolstraede 10, 1171 Copenhagen K, Denmark.

● *Race et histoire.* By Claude Levi-Strauss. 1987. Co-editeur: Denoel/UNESCO. ISBN 92-3-202475-6.

● *Racism, science et pseudo-science.* Collection Actuel. 1982. UNESCO ISBN 92-3-201993-0.

● *Group Rights and Discrimination in International Law. By Natan Lerner. 1990. 320 pp. ISBN 0-7923-0853-0. Available from Kluwer Academic Publishers, Distribution Center, P.O. Box 322, 3399 AH Dordrecht, The Netherlands.*

14 December 1990. The Seminar is being organized within the context of the United Nations Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination as part of the Advisory Services Programme in the Field of Human Rights.

The object of the Seminar is to provide participants with the opportunity to develop possible ways of eliminating the factors contributing to racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*, taking into account discrimination against vulnerable groups.

Participants will be invited from 33 countries. Each Government is invited to nominate a candidate. Specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations with an interest in the subject matter will also be invited to send representatives.

The agenda will cover: the causes and current manifestations of racism; racism today–an overview and interrelationship of causes and manifestation; and action to be taken at the national and international levels.

Vulnerable groups such as ethnic and racial groups, indigenous populations, migrant workers and their families, religious groups, and women will be the subject of all items under discussion.

For further information, contact: Advisory Services and Technical Assistance Section, Centre for Human Rights.

Racism and Racial Discrimination

Interview with Diego Garcia-Sayan, Executive Director, Andean Commission of Jurists

Q: Recently, tremendous changes have been taking place in southern Africa which will hopefully result in the abolition of *apartheid*. However, racism, whether *institutionalized* or not, is a phenomenon which seems to be manifesting itself increasingly in other parts of the world. As Executive Director of the Andean Commission of Jurists (ACJ), how do you view this problem today?

A: Well, besides *apartheid* that may be seen as the extreme manifestation of racism, there are many ways in which ethnical minorities and indigenous peoples are suffering discrimination all around the world, not only concerning major cultural aspects of their own national identities, but also major violations of their right to their own land and territory and to administering themselves according to their own rules, their own laws and their own traditions. It is a pity that after so many years of new international norms concerning human rights, the situation has not evolved positively but on the contrary, we find that there is a big gap regarding human rights international norms and standards. The fact that it is difficult to find equal rights formally guaranteed in many constitutional laws is part of the reality of daily life.

Q: Do you believe that the international community is doing enough to address this problem and if not, what should be done?

A: Certainly the international community has played a very positive role in creating a certain awareness of what is happening around the world. I am thinking in particular of such bodies as the United Nations Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and of what the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has done over the last yeas, drafting and approving a new convention on indigenous peoples. I think that the international community has done some important things but the amount of problems that have to be faced are so great that much more remains to be done.

Q: For example?

A: Possibly by increasingly involving non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and representatives of the indigenous peoples and ethnical minorities which, in many cases, are seen by some States as enemies for national integrity in the territory of their own States. I do believe that the international community must intervene in order to protect the rights of the ethnical minorities and indigenous populations, while providing these organizations with a greater opportunity to voice their concerns. Certain mechanisms should be created so that the specific complaints concerning human rights violations of indigenous peoples and ethnical minorities find specific fora so that they can be dealt with. For example, what the Sub-Commission's Working Group on Indigenous Populations has done is quite important from the normative point of view, but its own mandate and the way it has been developing has not allowed the Working Group to deal effectively with specific situations and claims. Perhaps, in the mid-term, some specific bodies can be created for this purpose, although I don't think that that is necessarily the only thing that can be done. I think that the bodies that already act should be increasingly aware of this problem and should create either a specific chapter or method of work to this end.

Q: Do you believe that non-governmental organizations are as effective as they could be in combatting racism and racial discrimination?

A: I think that, in some ways, if the world is more or less aware of what is happening concerning racism and racial discrimination as a whole, it is because of NGOs, some of them direct representatives of people that are subject to such discrimination. For instance, many NGOs that are concerned with the so-called rights of the *first* generation of civil and political rights do not always give special attention to the problem of ethnical and racial discrimination. I am not suggesting that all NGOs involve themselves in activities concerning racial discrimination because some of them have very specific tasks. But I feel that although many positive things have been achieved, much

more can be done. Promoting the rights of indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities is not only making the public and the international community more aware of the problem, but also sensitizing them to possible solutions which must be specific and concrete. I am thinking in particular of countries in the Andean region, such as Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador, where there has been a long history and tradition of Quechua and Aymara cultures, which represents, among other things, a whole world of customary laws and juridical mechanisms. Historically, the official system in these countries has not taken into consideration the *unwritten* laws of such peoples, which is in many cases much more efficient and concrete than the written law of the official system. We have thus created a kind of fiction of the State which has only one juridical system disregarding the fact that ethnical pluralism should be reflected, among other things, in a juridical pluralism. This would be an important issue to be addressed by NGOs, universities and research institutions. I am absolutely convinced that if ethnical and racial pluralism is in some way reflected in the juridical structure of the society, major achievements can be acquired without major disruptions of what is considered the integrity of States.

Q: Have you seen signs of this actually being done right now? Are they moving toward that?

A: I think among certain indigenous peoples and organizations there is an increasing awareness about that. I feel that even among peoples and some members of the Congress and even within their Governments there is a growing awareness. For example, I am thinking about the possible consequences in the mid-term of the new ILO Convention on Indigenous Peoples which, among other things, considers in a quite important manner the way that juridical pluralism must be respected. If in the next months and years ahead the States are expected to approve that Convention, I am sure that that will promote certain discussion because such approval should be reflected in certain constitutional changes so as to be consistent with international norms. So, although the problems of racism are increasing, not only in Latin America but in certain areas of the world in which ethnical minorities like the Kurds, for example, who are suffering atrocious human rights violations, I feel there is room for optimism because of the many persons and organizations working to solve and seek solutions to this problem.

Q: What role can your organization play in helping to address the phenomenon of racism and racial discrimination?

A: The Andean Commission is organizing its second workshop and training course for indigenous leaders of the Andean region, specifically concerned with human rights protection, in Ecuador this November. The first workshop was held two years ago in Bolivia. What we look for in these meetings is to gain from the indigenous leaders an insight into their problems, which in turn can lead to an exchange of ideas and a creation of links for common action in the international arena.

Q: What do you feel is the best international forum for exposing these problems?

A: I feel that the United Nations, as a whole, is an excellent forum, particularly where NGOs can play an important role in cooperating with different bodies of the UN system. It also provides an excellent venue for NGO representatives of indigenous peoples to carry out a dialogue with Governments. If we follow the path of confrontation, it is difficult to think that, in the short- and medium-term, the problem of discrimination against ethnical minorities and indigenous peoples will improve. Possibly, in specific situations, the confrontational attitude appears to be all that is left for the people, even though the cost can be very high. Taking advantage of the United Nations as a forum for the promotion of peace and human rights and following the main aspects of the Charter of the United Nations, can not only be useful for international peace among the States but also for the peace among the peoples in their own States in which we have yet so many problems to solve.

Q: Do you think there is any hope for eliminating racism and racial discrimination in the near future?

A: Perhaps it would be too optimistic to speak about the near future. It may be difficult to change the result of hundreds or thousands of years of racial discrimination and oppression in so short a time. But as mechanisms to process these conflicts are strengthened, I think there may be room for optimism and hope.

Peace Prize Awarded to Indigenous Activist

"Our voices must be heard. We can not accept that the memory of our people be reduced to national monuments... We also need justice, freedom of expression and full participation in building our future. In the name of the peasants of Guatemala, thank you for this prize." With these words, Rigoberta Menchu Túm (Guatemala) accepted the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education during a ceremony held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris on 20 September 1990. (UNESCO photo/Dominique Roger).

Each year, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) awards a prize for outstanding and internationally recognized work done in the field of educational action to promote human rights and international understanding. This years prize, amounting to $60,000, was shared between Rigoberta Menchú Túm and the World Order Models Project, an association of scholars and political figures from various regions of the world engaged in research, education and dialogue and action aimed at promoting a just world order.

FIRST GUATEMALAN INDIAN TO PARTICIPATE IN WORKING GROUP

Ms. Menchu was one of the founders of the Unitary Representation of the Guatemalan Opposition, RUOG, a vocal group in denouncing violations of human rights, and has been one of the leading agents working to promote peace through its own efforts and through participation in the National Dialogue intitiated by the National Committee for Reconciliation. Her commitment to the

defence of Indian, human and political rights in Guatemala led to her exile in late 1981.

In 1982, Ms. Menchu became the first Guatemalan Indian to take part in the first session of the Working Group on Indigenous Population, held in August of that year. Since the thirty-fifth session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities, held in Geneva in September 1982, she has been following the debates of the United Nations on this theme, particularly since she became, in 1986, a member of the Steering Committee of the International Indian Treaty Council. Her defence of peace and human rights in Guatemala and Central America earned her a place on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights since March 1983.

Ms. Menchu's autobiography and her worldwide activity in the cause of peace, human rights and the rights of the indigenous peoples of Latin America have been filmed on more than one occassion.

Committee on Racial Discrimination

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination held its thirty-eighth session from 6 to 24 August 1990 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. At this time, the 18-member Committee examined 41 reports submitted by States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

The Committee normally meets twice yearly for a duration of three weeks each time. However, because of non-payment by a number of States parties of their assessed contributions under the Convention, the Committee has been able to meet only once yearly since 1986.

In addition to examining reports for proposals and recommendations, the Committee also assists in settling disputes among States parties concerning the application of the Convention, watches for signs of racial discrimination in non-independent territories, and receives communications from persons or groups claiming to be victims of a violation of the Convention by a State party. During the session, one communication was considered.

As of 24 August, 129 States had become parties to the International Convention, making it the most widely accepted human rights instrument adopted under the auspices of the United Nations.

SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM

During the session, it was agreed that a request would be made to the United Nations Secretary-General to arrange a one-day joint meeting in August 1991 (the next planned session) between Committee members and those of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in order to exchange views on the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination due to end in 1993.

The Right to Education

Almost one thousand million people are in need of learning to read and write, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The equality of human beings and each person's right to develop to the fullest are ideas central to both education and the United Nations.

One of the main goals of International Literacy Year 1990 (ILY) is to launch a decade-long Plan of Action to combat illiteracy. Over the past year, Governments, United Nations agencies, international and non-governmental organizations have been working to increase action by the world community to ensure that every child can find a place in school and that illiterate youth and adults can receive instruction in reading, writing and other basic tools.

For further information about what you can do, contact: International Literacy Year Secretariat, UNESCO, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75700 Paris, France.

1990 Fellowship Programme

The Centre for Human Right's annual fellowship programme was held from 2 July to 3 August 1990. Thirty nations were represented by individuals whose names had been submitted by Member States for the Centre's consideration.

Prior to leaving for a three-week series of training courses held at the International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, fellows attended one week of briefings in Geneva on the the United Nations system under the United Nations Charter, on the mandate of the Centre for Human Rights, its structure and methods of work, and on the work of the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

Courses and lectures at the Institute included such topics as: human rights and criminal law, the rights of the child and constitutional development in different countries, the inter-American human rights protection system, the European human rights protection system, international humanitarian law, the human rights protection system of the United Nations and of its specialized agencies, human rights in Africa and Asia, and responses to international human rights violations in domestic law.

During their final week, fellows returned to Geneva to attend briefings on the human rights activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organisation and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. They were also called upon at this time to make an oral presentation of a report which they had prepared on a particular human rights topic of their choice. The reports will in turn be submitted at a later date in writing to both the Centre and to the respective Governments.

SELECTION OF FELLOWS

One year prior to each programme, the Centre requests Member States to submit names of candidates

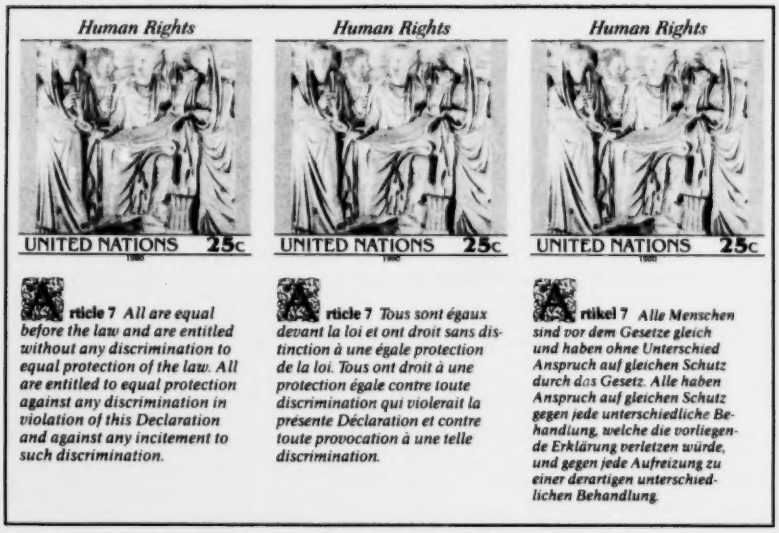
which include persons such as military officers, judges, police officials, diplomats or even representatives of local, human rights-oriented non-governmental organizations.

In selecting fellows, the Centre takes into consideration a fair distribution of male and female participants from all geopolitical sectors, particularly those from developing countries, Government endorsement of applications, and young persons working for their Government, responsible for the implementation of laws and regulations affecting human rights.

Names for the July 1991 programme must be submitted by the respective Governments through United Nations Development Programme offices no later than 15 November 1990 in order that the Centre proceed with the selection.

For further information, contact: Advisory Services and Technical Assistance Section, Centre for Human Rights.

Human Rights Stamps Available


Human Rights
UNITED NATIONS 25c
Article 7 All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.
Human Rights
UNITED NATIONS 25c
Article 7 Tous sont égaux devant la loi et ont droit sans distinction à une égale protection de la loi. Tous ont droit à une protection égale contre toute discrimination qui violerait la présente Déclaration et contre toute provocation à une telle discrimination.
Human Rights
UNITED NATIONS 25c
Artikel 7 Alle Menschen sind vor dem Gesetze gleich und haben ohne Unterschied Anspruch auf gleichen Schutz durch das Gesetz. Alle haben Anspruch auf gleichen Schutz gegen jede unterschiedliche Behandlung, welche die vorliegende Erklärung verletzen würde, und gegen jede Aufreizung zu einer derartigen unterschiedlichen Behandlung.

Artwork for Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is from a sarcophagus of Plotinus, an Egyptian philosopher who died in 270 AD. The philosopher is depicted in discourse over a scroll. From earliest times, philosophy and law have been intertwined in the development of the concepts of equality and of protection without discrimination. This work is courtesy of the Vatican Museum.

The second set of stamps, containing six articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, will be available from the United Nations Postal Service as of 16 November 1990. The project, part of the United Nations World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights, extends over a five-year period, having begun on 17 November 1989. During this time, the entire 30-article Declaration will be reproduced.

With the help of major museums and art historians around the world, an important work of art has been chosen to represent each of the articles. Reflecting the universal nature of humanity's aspirations for human rights, the art included in this series spans many eras, cultures and forms of expression.

The stamps will be available in units of singles or full sheets only. Because of the format of the sheet, a single unit will consist of a block, three stamps and three accompanying labels on which the article is printed in English, French and German.

For further information, contact: United Nations Postal Administration, P.O. Box 5900, Grand Cen-

Galilee Society for Health Research and Services, P.O. Box 92, Rama 30055, Israel. Tel/Fax: 972-4-881-723.

Human Rights Courses, Seminars

Four activities were recently carried out as part of the United Nations World Campaign for Human Rights within the Advisory Services and Technical Assistance Programme. They include:

● *WORKSHOP ON THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS* (17 to 20 June 1990, Ottawa, Canada). Organized by the Centre for Human Rights in cooperation with the Government of Canada, the workshop was attended by representatives from some 29 countries and addressed by members and former members of the United Nations Human Rights Committee and the Centre for Human Rights. The ceremony was opened by Canada's Minister of Justice and Canada's Attorney General as well as by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights. Participants discussed practices and procedures of the Human Rights Committee under the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Under the Optional Protocol, individuals who claim that any of their rights enumerated in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights have been violated and who have exhausted all available domestic remedies, may submit written communications to the Human Rights Committee for consideration.

An in-depth analysis of the various presentations by experts was carried out by two working groups. It was agreed that the Committee is discharging its mandate under the Optional Protocol both effectively and flexibly. Participants discussed the *publicity* of the Committee's work; it was pointed out that although all of its final decisions are made public, the public at large remains relatively unaware of the procedure. Several observers drew comparisons between the Committee's work and the work of regional human rights instruments, such as the European Commission of Human Rights. While such comparisons are useful, it was felt, they should not obscure the uniqueness of the Committee's work.

Participants emphasized that the Human Rights Committee's future challenges will be manifold. As the number of States parties to the Optional Protocol, presently 51, is rising steadily, it is not unreasonable to envisage the true universality of the procedure in some years' time. This will necessitate further procedural innovations to handle an exponential growth in complaints, and a considerable strengthening of United Nations Secretariat services.

Several observers, including those from the Czeck and Slovak Federal Republic, Bulgaria and the Ukrainian SSR, underscored the timeliness of the workshop by announcing that their respective Governments intended to become parties to the Optional Protocol in the near future.

Deputy Prime-Minister of the Ukranian SSR, Mr. Komissarenko, addressing paticipants on behalf of Prime Minister Vitalij Mosol, at the opening session of the European Workshop on International Standards in the Field of Human Rights.

● *FIRST URUGUAYAN TRAINING COURSE ON THE APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL NORMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE* (9 to 13 July 1990, Montevideo, Uruguay). Organized by the Centre for Human Rights in cooperation with the Government of Uruguay, over 100 persons attended the course, which was specifically designed for law enforcement officers, prison officers, magistrates and judges. Universal (United Nations), European and American systems for protection and promotion of human rights constituted the basis of the course. Particular attention was given to torture conventions, codes of conduct for law enforcement officers and a code of principles for protecting detainees.

Participants made a number of suggestions which were drafted in conclusions including such follow-up actions as the establishment of a group responsible for training police and prison officers and judges, and the possibility of setting up a Government technical cooperation project in cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights and the World Health Organization on the principles of medical ethics.

● *SEMINAR ON THE APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE* (18 to 21 July 1990, Asunción, Paraguay). Organized in close cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and Labour and the United Nations Development Programme, the seminar included a series of lectures and round tables dealing with the: United Nations system of protection and promotion of human rights, as well as the Inter-American system; interrelation and interdependance between civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights; problems of vulnerable groups such as children and women, refugees and rights of workers; role of the police in protecting human rights; and the relationship between international humanitarian law and human rights.

Over 130 persons from all sectors of Paraguayan society participated.

SEMINARIO SOBRE LA APLICACION DE LOS INSTRUMENTOS
INTERNACIONALES DE DERECHOS HUMANOS Y
LA ADMINISTRACION DE LA JUSTICIA

The President of Paraguay, General Andrès Rodriguez, closed the human rights seminar on the Application of International Instruments and Administration of Justice on 20 July 1990 before an audience of over 500 persons, including national personalities of the executive, legislative and judiciary branches. Seated, as shown from left to right are: José L. Gomez del Prado, United Nations Centre for Human Rights; A. Frutos Vaesken, Minister of External Relations; Raul Alfonsin, former President of Argentina; General Rodriguez, President of Paraguay; José Sarney, former President of Brazil; Hans Kurz, United Nations Development Programme; Leandro Despouy, expert of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

● *EUROPEAN WORKSHOP ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS* (24 to 28 September 1990, Kiev, Ukrainian SSR) Organized in cooperation with the United Nations Association of the Soviet Union, the Soviet Committee for European Security and Co-operation and with the support of the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Ukranian SSR. Academicians, administrators of justice, and officials from the justice and foreign ministries of 31 countries participated. The workshop aimed to build a better understanding of human rights norms and their implementation so that such standards could be applied more effectively both nationally and internationally. Topics under discussion included: the international system for the promotion and protection of human rights; international human rights standards and mechanisms of protection of the rights of persons at the national level; international standards in the field of civil and political rights; The role and machinery of the United Nations in the field of human rights; awareness

of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the role of public opinion; and teaching of human rights.

For further information, contact: Advisory Services and Technical Assistance Section, Centre for Human Rights.

UN Mission to Guatemala

From 20 September to 5 October, a three-person mission to examine the human rights situation in Guatemala and to continue assistance to the Government was conducted. The mission was led by an independent expert, Professor Ch. Tomuschat (Federal Republic of Germany), appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General, at the request of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

Professor Tomuschat is presently a member of the United Nations International Law Commission and a former member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee.

The mission held meetings with national authorities and personalities of the executive, judicial and legislative branches including the President of Guatemala and the Minister of External Relations, Defense and Interior, the President of the Supreme Court of Justice and several judges, and the Procurator of Human Rights. It also met with the Archbishop of Guatemala and representatives of other religions, the President of the National Commission of Reconciliation, leaders of various political parties, representatives of employers and workers unions, Guatemalan non-governmental organizations for the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as with a number of individuals presenting allegations of possible human rights violations.

The mission had the opportunity to visit the localities of Nebay, Santa Cruz del Quiché, Sacapulas, Chichicastenango, Chimaltenango, Panajachel and Santiago Alitlán in Guatemala. In Mexico City, the mission held meetings with representatives of the Guatemalan refugees in Mexico, the Unitary Representation of Guatemala (RUOG), the National Revolutionary Unit of Guatemala (URNG) and the Guatemalan Commission of Human Rights.

Human Rights Committee Meets

The United Nations Human Rights Committee held its thirty-ninth session from 9 to 27 July 1990 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. The protection of fundamental rights and freedoms in four States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights were the topic under discussion. The countries included San Marino, Viet Nam, Tunisia and Zaire.

Officials from these countries explained to the 18-member Committee what measures, legislative and otherwise, their Governments had taken to implement the Covenant.

During this session, the Committee adopted the text of a general comment on Article 23 of the Covenant, relating to protection of the family. General comments reflect the Committee's interpretation of various provisions of the Covenant and serve as a guide to implementation by the States parties of the provisions of the Covenant and State party reporting thereon. The Committee will now begin preparatory work on general comments on articles relating to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, the right to participate in public affairs and the rights of minorities. It is also planning to revise its general comments on articles 7 and 10 of the Covenant to reflect recent developments.

The Committee also concluded adoption of its annual report to the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, which reflects the Committee's growing workload due to the increased number of States parties to the Covenant and to the Optional Protocol. This enlarged responsibility of a Committee already faced with inadequate resources will have to be met with a greater financial commitment, the report states.

For further information, contact: International Instruments Section, Centre for Human Rights.

Andean Human Rights Course

A course-workshop on the International Protection of Human Rights (II) was held in Lima, Peru from 12 to 15 June 1990. It was organized by the Andean Commission of Jurists (ACJ) with technical support provided by the Centre for Human Rights. ACJ is an affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists.

Over 40 persons attended, consisting of representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the Andean region (Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela) active in the defense and promotion of human rights.

The purpose of the course-workshop, the second of a series planned by ACJ, was to supply information on the mechanisms for the protection of human rights on the international scene and the roles and actions available to NGOs. Several topics were covered: the international protection of human rights, substantive rights, mechanisms of international protection, institutional apparatus, and conventional and non-conventional human rights protection in the univeral system (proceedings). The role of the United Nations Working Group on Forced or Involuntary Disappearances, Special Rapporteurs on summary or arbitrary executions and torture, the Inter-American system of protection, the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law and the International Committee of the Red Cross were also discussed.

It is hoped that the next course-workshop will be held in another Andean country in July 1991.

INDIGENOUS LEADERS WORKSHOP PLANNED

A course-workshop on human rights for Andean Indigenous Leaders (II), will be organized by ACJ in Quito, Ecuador from 26 to 29 November 1990. Indigenous leaders and representatives will participate.

In addition to informing the indigenous leaders of the mechanisms for the protection of human rights on the national and international level, the course-workshop will try to pro-

vide a forum for the analysis of the human rights situation of the Andean indigenous peoples.

For further information, contact: Diego García-Sayan, Director, Comisión Andina de Juristas, Los Sauces 285, San Isidro, Lima 27, Peru. Tel: 428094; fax: 426468.

UN/IGO Events 1990

21 October 45th Anniversary of the United Nations.

1-2 November Inter-Agency Advisory Group on AIDS. Venue: New York, NY (USA). Contact: Global Programme on AIDS, World Health Organization, 20, avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

4-6 December Ninth IOM Seminar on Migration on the theme: South-North Migration. Venue: Geneva. Contact: International Organization for Migration, route de Morillons 17, 1218 Geneva, Switzerland.

NGO Events

NGOs are encouraged to provide information on their activities to the Centre for Human Rights in Geneva. It is understood, however, that the Centre does not assume any responsibility for the views expressed by participants in NGO events noted in the "Newsletter".

12-13 July 1990 Seminar on New Avenues on the Individual's International Protection. Venue: Santiago, Chile. Contact: Maria Teresa Infante Caffi, Directora, Instituto de Estudios Internacionales, Universidad de Chile, Casilla 14187, Sucursal 21, Santiago, Chile.

12-18 September 1990 VIII Interdisciplinary Course on Human Rights. Venue: San José, Costa Rica. Contact: José Thompson, Coordinator Curso Interdisciplinarlo, Instituto Interamericano de Direitos Humanos, Apartado 10.081-1000 San José, Costa Rica.

8-20 October 1990 Eighth Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. Venue: Banjul, Gambia. Contact: Information Section, Centre for Human Rights.

9-19 October 1990 Cours International de Haute Spécialisation pour les Forces de Police. Theme: La Police face à l'évolution démographique du XXI^{e} siècle (specifically related to human rights). Venue: Cyprus. Contact: A. Giacomo Barletta, Centre International de Recherches et d'Etudes Sociologiques, Pénales et Penitentiaires, Via Ghibellina 59, 98100 Messina, Italy.

6-7 November 1990 23rd Training Course for Journalists (to include courses on the question of human rights and the United Nations World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights). Venue: Prague. Contact: Gérard Gatinot, Secretary-General. International Organization of Journalists, Celetná 2, 11001 Prague, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.

9-12 November 1990 Conference on Human Rights in the Twenty-First Century: A Global Challenge. Venue: Banff, Alberta, Canada. Contact: Kathleen E. Mahoney, Conference Director, Faculty of Law, University of Calgary, 2500 University Drive North West, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2N 1N4.

15-17 November 1990 Droits Linguistiques-Droits de L'Homme. Venue: Strasbourg, France. Contact: Association pour le bilinguisme en Alsace et en Moselle, Cercle René Schickele, 31, rue Oberlin, F 67000 Strasbourg, France.

16-18 November 1990 Bulgaria Constitutional Conference. Venue: Sofia, Bulgaria. Organized by the International Human Rights Group in cooperation with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights. Contact: Ms. J. Diller, Legal Director, International Human Rights Law Group, 1601 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20009, USA.

27-29 November 1990 15th Session of Afro-Asia Peoples' Solidarity Organization Presidium. Venue: Damascus, Syria. Contact: Dr. Morad Ghaleb, President, AAPSO, 89, Abdel Aziz Al Saoud St., Manial, Cairo, Egypt.

29 November–1 December 1990 International Commission of Jurists Seminar on a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. Venue: Geneva. Contact: Adama Dieng, Executive Secretary, ICJ, P.O. Box 120, 109 route de Chêne, 1224 Chêne-Bougeries, Geneva, Switzerland.

10-15 December 1990 World Congress on Human Rights. Venue: New Delhi. Contact: Prof. K.P. Saksena, HURITER, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi 110067, India.

18 February–15 March 1991 Human Rights Course on the Teaching and Promotion of Human Rights for Lawyers, Judges and Jurists. Venue: Barcelona. Contact: Josep Ma. Solsona, Institut de Drets Humans de Catalunya, Passeig de Gràcia, 78-2n. 2a. A, 08008 Barcelona, Spain.

5–14 April 1991. Twenty First Century Trust Second International Workshop on Human Rights. Venue: Worcester College, Oxford. Contact: Peter Marsden, Twenty First Century Trust, Church House, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3BL, United Kingdom.

Worldwide Interest In Support of Child Rights

Two major events have recently taken place reflecting growing support on behalf of the rights of children worldwide: the World Summit for Children, which, with the support of 72 Heads of State and Government, produced a ten-point plan of action to make far-reaching improvements in the conditions of children, and the entry into force (as international law) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child for those countries which have ratified the Convention.

As follow up to the Summit, those Heads of State and Government having attended have agreed to work over the next ten years to reduce infant and maternal mortality, reduce severe and moderate malnutrition among children under five years of age, provide for universal access to safe drinking water, sanitary means of waste disposal, basic education and completion of primary education, reduce adult illiteracy, and improve the protection of children in especially difficult circumstances, such as street children, and victims of abuse, drugs and armed conflict. All such issues are treated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

By 30 September 1990, 49 States had become parties to the Child Convention, while a total of 128 nations had become signatories.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN AND THEIR RIGHTS

Several major international events were held, or are being planned during 1990 as part of the global mobilization activities leading up to the Summit for Children and the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Among them:

● *WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY*– Some 1,200 delegates, aged 6 to 12 years, from over 120 countries, met in an assembly at the United Nations headquarters in New York to celebrate World Children's Day (6 May 1990). Their objective was to sign a petition to heads of State attending

Heads of State/Government attending the World Summit for Children, 29 and 30 September 1990 at United Nations headquarters in New York. (Photo: UNICEF/Eastman Kodak Company)

the World Summit for Children, asking for speedy ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

World Children's Day, an initiative of the World Children's Day Foundation, aims to engage children in volunteer projects that will in turn promote dialogue and cooperation among children on a global level. The Foundation provides the children with a forum at the United Nations General Assembly so that they might share with the international community how they can contribute to peace through projects.

● *YOUTH ROUND TABLE*–A youth round table aimed at launching a youth NGO world initiative for children, under the theme of *Children First*, was held on 15 to 18 September 1990 in Geneva, Switzerland. Over 200 young participants, representing members of youth NGO networks worldwide, attended. The round table provided an opportunity for young people to discuss children's issues, develop a plan of action for children, to explore networking and cooperation among youth NGOs and with UNICEF at the global, regional and national levels in the 1990s and beyond, and to attract public attention to youth's commitment to children.

Five priority areas were identified: health, education, children's rights, environment, and structural adjustments, including the debt problem.

● *AFRICAN SEMINAR ON CHILD RIGHTS CONVENTION*–The Tunisian League for the Defence of Human Rights will organize, in cooperation with the Arab Institute for Human Rights and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, an African Seminar on the Rights of the Child from 29 to 31 October 1990, in Tunis, Tunisia. The objective will be to analyze, one year after the adoption of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, the political, cultural and economic difficulties of applying this convention, examining the most appropriate strategies for improving the living conditions for children in Africa, and strengthening ties between African human rights organizations.

Representatives of human rights associations, non-governmental organizations and African experts, including jurists, university professors and doctors, will attend.

The date for convening the seminar was also selected to coincide with African Human Rights Day, celebrated each year on 20 October.

For further information, contact: Fraj Fenniche, Institut Arabe des Droits de l'Homme, 23 Avenue Mohieddine Klibi El Manar 3, Tunis 1004, Tunisia.

● *A WORLD SAFE FOR CHILDREN: MEETING THE CHALLENGE IN THE 1990s*–The annual conference of the United Nations Department of Public Information for Non-Governmental Organizations convened its annual meeting on this theme at New York headquarters from 12 to 14 September 1990. The major objective was to address the state of the world's children, following the adoption by the General Assembly in November 1989 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and to serve as a prelude to the World Summit for Children.

The conference, opened by the United Nations Secretary-General, provided an occassion for non-governmental organizations and other participants to share experiences, formulate recommendations for action and to support the work of the United Nations in safeguarding the lives of the world's children.

It was pointed out at this time by the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, that new resources would be necessary from national Governments and international organizations in order to change in real terms the living conditions of children. The activities of the Committee on the Rights of the Child would be of paramount importance in increasing the awareness of the needs of children and in increasing the priority given to those needs in national and international budgets.

The Centre for Human Rights is the lead agency of the United Nations in the field of human rights. It provides secretariat and substantive services to United Nations bodies concerned with human rights questions, administers the programme of advisory services and technical assistance on human rights, and co-ordinates the relevant activities of the World Campaign for Human Rights within the United Nations system. It ensures liaison with Governments, non-governmental organizations, external institutions and the media, and is responsible for the collection, production and dissemination of human rights publications.

Further information: United Nations Centre for Human Rights, Palais des Nations, 8-14 avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Telephone: (4122) 734 60 11/731 02 11; telex 412962; fax: 7339879; cable: UNATIONS, Geneva; or New York Office, Centre for Human Rights, United Nations Headquarters, New York, N. Y. 10017, USA.

NOTICE TO OUR READERS: *The telex number of the United Nations Office in Geneva has been changed from 289696 to 412962.*

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